

# Electronics and Scientific Instruments Industry Profile

## **Background**

The electronics and computer cluster in Washington state is a very large and diverse group of companies that manufacture products with significant electronic components. This sector also includes companies producing semiconductors and related products as well as computer hardware. The North Puget Sound and the Southwest region of Washington are the largest regions in the state for production in this cluster.

In 2000, the electronics and computer cluster employed over 34,000 workers at more than 500 establishments. This is a significant increase of close to 31 percent of employment in this sector over the past decade.

One of the significant sub-sectors within electronics is the scientific instruments sector, which includes companies that produce motion control, measurement testing, and other monitoring equipment. There is a cluster of close to ten to fifteen of these companies in this sector in the Snohomish County or North Puget Sound region.

An educated workforce and the support for the technology sector from several organizations, such as the Technology Alliance, the American Electronics Association, and the Washington Technology Center have been important to the growth of electronics, scientific instruments, and related computer hardware in Washington.

*(Source: Northwest Policy Center Cluster Study, Washington Technology Center)*

## **Exports**

In 2001, Washington exported approximately \$876 million in electronic equipment and components overseas. The primary export

markets for these products included the United Kingdom, France, Germany, as well as the Asian countries of Taiwan, China, and Singapore.

Washington also exported \$421 million in scientific instruments/measuring equipment overseas in 2001. The primary export countries for this sector included Germany, the United Kingdom, France, and Korea. The Fluke Corporation is an example of one of the primary companies manufacturing control and instrument devices that has had a presence in Europe for a long time.

*(Source: MISER statistics)*

## **Leading companies in this sector**

- Fluke Corporation
- WaferTech
- Flow International Corporation
- Key Tronic Corporation
- Applied Microsystems Corporation
- TTM Technologies, Inc.
- Itron
- Microvision, Inc.
- Schweitzer Engineering Labs
- Controltek, Inc.

*(Source: Puget Sound Business Journal Book of Lists 2002, Washington CEO)*